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STATINTL

Heroism in Ghana

Something more than ordinary bravery or courage impelled Emerson E. Player to fight his way through a mob and save our flag from destruction at the American Embassy in Ghana. The area was swarming with angry Ghanans and hostile policemen when the flag was pulled down and about to be torn from the halyard.

No one ordered Mr. Player, an embassy attache on his first overseas mission, to single-handedly defy the demonstrators. It plainly was something stronger than an external command—rather a thing inside us we call instinct—that triggered Mr. Player's determination to run Old Glory back up the pole.

It was something called patriotism, which is inbred in most Americans, especially Americans like Mr. Player, whose father was gassed in the Meuse-Argonne battle of 1918 and who says of his son: "He did the normal thing." It should make no difference that Mr. Player is a Negro. But at this particular time in history, we note the fact with satisfaction, anyway.